



General Assembly

PROVISIONAL

A/45/PV.76
17 May 1991

ENGLISH

Forty-fifth session

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

PROVISIONAL VERBATIM RECORD OF THE SEVENTY-SIXTH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Friday, 17 May 1991, at 3 p.m.

President:

Mr. PEERTHUM
(Vice-President)

(Mauritius)

- Special economic and disaster relief assistance: [86] (continued)
- Financing of the United Nations Transition Assistance Group: Report of the Fifth Committee [132] (continued)
- Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara [157] (continued)

This record contains the original text of speeches delivered in English and interpretations of speeches in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the Official Records of the General Assembly.

Corrections should be submitted to original speeches only. They should be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned, within one week, to the Chief, Official Records Editing Section, Department of Conference Services, room DC2-750, 2 United Nations Plaza, and incorporated in a copy of the record.

The meeting was called to order at 3.35 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 86 (continued)

SPECIAL ECONOMIC AND DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE: DRAFT RESOLUTION
(A/45/L.50/Rev.1)

The PRESIDENT: The General Assembly will first consider under agenda item 86 entitled, Special economic and disaster relief assistance, the question of special emergency assistance to Haiti. In this connection, a draft resolution has been issued as document A/45/L.50/Rev.1. I now call on the representative of Ecuador to introduce draft resolution A/45/L.50/Rev.1.

Mr. AYALA LASSO (Ecuador) (interpretation from Spanish): In my capacity as Chairman of the Latin American and Caribbean Group for this month, I am extremely pleased to submit for the consideration of the General Assembly the draft resolution on special emergency assistance to Haiti in document A/45/L.50/Rev.1. This draft resolution has the unanimous support of all of the members of the Latin American and Caribbean Group. The following countries are its sponsors: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, France, Germany, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Luxembourg, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Spain, Suriname, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Uruguay and Venezuela.

(Mr. Ayala Lasso, Ecuador)

The tragic economic and social situation being faced by the Haitian people is so serious that the Permanent Representative of Haiti has described it as a "permanent emergency". In the report contained in document A/45/1002, the Secretary-General tells us that Haiti's needs are so acute that the population has been compelled to consume even the seed it had set aside for future crops. In other words, the current state of affairs in Haiti is so grave that even the future of that country is being consumed.

(Mr. Ayala Lasso, Ecuador)

In this economic and social emergency, we should offer special applause and support to the efforts of the noble people of Haiti to conduct themselves in a democratic manner and to seek in their everyday practices to strengthen the institutions that are indispensable for achieving their legitimate aspirations.

The report of the Secretary-General had its basis in resolution 45/257, which the General Assembly adopted without a vote last December.

The preambular part of the draft resolution before the Assembly notes the worsening of the economic and social problems affecting Haiti and the urgent need to launch, as soon as possible, an emergency programme that expresses the support of the international community for the democratization and reconstruction process under way in Haiti.

Against that background, the draft resolution renews the Assembly's appeal to Member States, international financial institutions, the specialized agencies and organizations and programmes of the United Nations system to provide the special assistance which the Haitian people requires to strengthen its democratic life and to improve its economic and social condition. It must always be remembered that democratization is often affected, and can even founder, when economic and social programmes hobble, weaken and diminish the prestige of freely elected governments. Haitian democracy needs the full and universal support of the community of nations.

In the draft resolution the Secretary-General is also requested to provide all possible assistance to the launching of a programme of action that will have immediate benefits for the Haitian people.

Finally, the draft resolution expresses the hope that that programme will be ready for implementation before the meeting of the Consultative Group of the World Bank, scheduled for Paris in June 1991.

(Mr. Ayala Lasso, Ecuador)

The sponsors of the draft resolution know that international solidarity with Haiti is an unshirkable duty, and they are prepared to cooperate fully so that the legitimate aspirations of the Haitian people can begin to be met in an atmosphere of freedom and democracy that can foster social justice through which the Haitian population can, first, achieve the same level of development as the rest of the countries of the region and, then, together with those countries, attain the deserved realization of their hopes.

The sponsors hope the General Assembly will adopt the draft resolution without a vote.

The PRESIDENT: I wish to announce that Saint Kitts and Nevis has become a sponsor of draft resolution A/45/L.50/Rev.1.

We shall now take a decision on that draft resolution. May I take it that the General Assembly wishes to adopt draft resolution A/45/L.50/Rev.1?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 45/257 B).

The PRESIDENT: I call on the representative of Haiti.

Mr. AUGUSTE (Haiti) (interpretation from French): Some coincidences can be viewed as good omens and as signs of a harmonious conjunction of the elements that govern the fate of a country.

It was at the forty-fifth session of the General Assembly, under the presidency of Ambassador De Marco - unanimously praised for its substance and its charismatic form - and on the final day - always a Friday - of two segments of that session that the Assembly considered draft resolutions concerning my country. The resolution just adopted broadens and clarifies the resolution adopted on 21 December with respect to its implementation.

(Mr. Auguste, Haiti)

Those who supported and sponsored these resolutions know the unbreakable link between the economy and politics, between development and democracy, which the Secretary-General stressed on 18 April in his message to the European Parliament at Strasbourg in terms that deserve to be repeated:

"But the more democracy progresses, the clearer its fragility will become unless it is accompanied by a tangible improvement in the living conditions of the poorest. Democracy must not be assimilated into poverty and need."

I have no doubt that everyone here accepts that. That point of view, outlined in the United Nations Charter, has become an axiom - even a truism. Democracy is illusory if it is not accompanied at all stages of its development by economic and social improvements and a minimum standard of living.

Moreover, there is an element of urgency - not the extreme urgency of catastrophes and cataclysms that are so obvious and that make a sensational appeal to the imagination, but a silent, ongoing but pernicious and threatening urgency that comes from a continuing deterioration in social indices resulting from persistent economic stagnation and from the erosion of production and the social environment.

These social indices must change from explosive red to a hopeful green so that freedom and adequate food become an everyday reality.

The tragedy is that we must find the means. This is where the action of the international community must be felt, where cooperation by peoples and governments must emerge and take concrete form. I am grateful to all present for having understood this and for having been prepared to embrace this new ethic of shared responsibility.

(Mr. Auguste, Haiti)

The massive support for this draft resolution frees me from the need to belabour this point. It is a global response, comforting and exemplary, to the legitimacy of the aspirations of the Government and people of Haiti, who are determined, with the support of the international community, to assume their destiny and to take charge of the improvement of the nation's living conditions.

The PRESIDENT: The Assembly has thus concluded its consideration of agenda item 86.

AGENDA ITEMS 132 (continued) AND 157 (continued)

FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS TRANSITION ASSISTANCE GROUP: REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/45/1014)

FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS MISSION FOR THE REFERENDUM IN WESTERN SAHARA: REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/45/1013)

The PRESIDENT: The Assembly will now consider the reports of the Fifth Committee on agenda items 132 and 157.

I now call on the Rapporteur of the Fifth Committee, Mr. Shamel Elsayed Nasser of Egypt, to introduce the reports of the Fifth Committee in one intervention.

Mr. NASSER (Egypt), Rapporteur of the Fifth Committee (interpretation from Arabic): I have the honour today to present to the General Assembly the reports of the Fifth Committee on agenda items 157, "Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara", and 132, "Financing of the United Nations Transition Assistance Group".

The report of the Fifth Committee on item 157, "Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara", is contained in document A/45/1013. As stated in paragraph 2 of this report, the Committee

(Mr. Nasser, Rapporteur,
Fifth Committee)

considered item 157 at its 57th to 59th meetings. At its 59th meeting, the Chairman of the Fifth Committee put before the Committee the text of the draft resolution contained in paragraph 6 of the report before the Assembly. I shall highlight only certain aspects of this draft resolution.

In operative paragraph 1, it is recalled that, in accordance with Article 17 of the Charter of the United Nations, it is the General Assembly that shall consider and approve the budget of the Organization.

In operative paragraph 2, the Assembly would approve, in principle, the budgetary estimates proposed by the Secretary-General for the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara. The amount involved is \$176,868,000 net for the mandate period approved by the Security Council in its resolution 690 (1991).

Furthermore, the Assembly would decide, in operative paragraph 3, to appropriate an initial amount of \$140,000,000 net in accordance with the implementation timetable set out by the Secretary-General in his report. The Secretary-General is requested in operative paragraph 4 to submit a detailed performance report for the first six months of the operation to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session.

In operative paragraph 5, the Assembly would decide to consider at its forty-sixth session the appropriations required to finance the mission for the remaining three-month mandate period in the light of the Secretary-General's performance report.

The Fifth Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote.

Concerning agenda item 132, "Financing of the United Nations Transition Assistance Group", the report of the Fifth Committee is contained in document

(Mr. Nasser, Rapporteur,
Fifth Committee)

A/45/1014. The Committee considered this item at its 53rd, 54th, 56th and 60th meetings on 29 and 30 April and 2 and 17 May 1991. Draft resolution A/C.5/45/L.29 referred to in paragraph 8 of the report was put before the Fifth Committee by its Chairman at the Committee's 60th meeting, on 17 May 1991.

In operative paragraph 2, the Assembly would note that the net estimated cost of the United Nations Transition Assistance Group has been revised and that Member States' financial obligations to the Group should be adjusted accordingly.

In connection with operative paragraph 5, I should like to draw the Assembly's attention to changes that were made to the text before the adoption of the draft resolution by the Fifth Committee. As revised, operative paragraph 5 reads as follows:

"Invites Member States to consider the utilization of the credits due to them to be set off against their assessed contributions for other United Nations peace-keeping operations in accordance with the Financial Rules and Regulations".

The text of the draft resolution, when reissued, will reflect these changes.

Finally, I should draw the Assembly's attention to paragraph 12 of the draft resolution, in which those Member States that are still in arrears are urged to make every effort to pay their assessed contributions to the Group.

The draft resolution was adopted without a vote.

The PRESIDENT: If there is no proposal under rule 66 of the rules of procedure, I shall take it that the General Assembly decides not to discuss the reports of the Fifth Committee that are before the Assembly today.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: Statements will therefore be limited to explanations of vote. The positions of delegations regarding the various recommendations of the Fifth Committee have been made clear in the Committee and are reflected in the relevant Official Records.

I should like to remind members that under paragraph 7 of decision 34/401, the General Assembly agreed that:

"When the same draft resolution is considered in a Main Committee and in plenary meeting, a delegation should, as far as possible, explain its vote only once, i.e., either in the Committee or in plenary meeting unless that delegation's vote in plenary meeting is different from its vote in the Committee".

I should like to remind delegations that, also in accordance with General Assembly decision 34/401, explanations of vote are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

Before we begin to take action on the recommendations contained in the reports of the Fifth Committee, I should like to advise representatives that we are going to proceed with the voting in the same manner as was done in the Fifth Committee.

The Assembly will first consider the report of the Fifth Committee on agenda item 132, entitled, "Financing of the United Nations Transition Assistance Group (A/45/1014). The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended in paragraph 8 of the report. The text of the draft resolution is contained, for the time being, in document A/C.5/45/L.29, as revised in the Fifth Committee.

(The President)

The Fifth Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 45/265).

The PRESIDENT: The Assembly has thus concluded its consideration of agenda item 132.

(The President)

The Assembly will now consider the report of the Fifth Committee on agenda item 157, entitled "Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (A/45/1013).

The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution contained in paragraph 6 of the report. The Fifth Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 45/266).

The PRESIDENT: The Assembly has thus concluded its consideration of agenda item 157.

The meeting rose at 4.05 p.m.